Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TREASURY/OS/MFIELD/IMW APPROVED BY STATE L/T :AROVINE TREASURY/OS/THORST TREASURY/OS/HDROSENBLOOM AF/W/BSKIRKPATRICK

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P 301417Z JAN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 023893

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:EFIN

SUBJECT: DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY

REF: ABIDIJAN 11651

- 1. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO NEGOTIATE AN INCOME TAX TREATY WITH GOIC, IF REASONABLE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT EXIST. TWO COPIES OF A U.S. MODEL INCOME TAX TREATY, WHICH EMBASSY MIGHT WANT TO GIVE TO APPROPRIATE GOIC TAX OFFICIALS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION, AIRPOUCHED TODAY.
- 2. MODIFICATIONS CAN OF COURSE BE MADE IN THE MODEL IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATION, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GOIC UNDERSTAND THAT U.S. CANNOT AGREE TO A TAX INCENTIVE FOR U.S. INVESTORS IN IVORY COAST OR CHANGE ITS FOREIGN TAX CREDIT TO AN EXEMPTION OF FOREIGN SOURCE INCOME BY TREATY. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TYPICALLY WANT A "TAX-SPARING" CREDIT OR OTHER INVESTMENT INCENTIVE IN A TREATY WITH AN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY. THE U.S. SENATE HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO APPROVE SUCH AN INCENTIVE, AND THERE IS NO U.S.

TREATY IN EFFECT WHICH PROVIDES ONE. THIS WAS A PROBLEM IN U.S.-GOIC DISCUSSIONS OF AN INCOME TAX TREATY IN FEBRUARY 1969, SO IN INQUIRING AS TO THEIR INTEREST IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT WE ARE

STILL UNABLE TO AGREE BY TREATY TO REDUCE U.S. TAX ON U.S. INVESTORS IN THE IVORY COAST.

3. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, GOIC MIGHT NEVERTHELESS BE INTERESTED IN A TAX TREATY AS A MEANS OF ASSURING POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS THAT TAXING RULES ARE CLEAR, THE TAXES IMPOSED ARE NONDISCRIMINATORY, AND THAT THE TAX AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREE TO CONSULT TO AVOID ANY DOUBLE TAXATION. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION MAY ALSO BE ATTRACTIVE AS A HELP IN ENFORCING DOMESTIC TAX LAWS. BUT REVENUE CONCESSIONS WILL BE INEVITABLY UNBALANCED (MORE COSTLY TO GOIC) GIVEN IMBALANCE IN INVESTMENT. VANCE

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